

Monday, August 2

Quite a number of those who practiced magical arts brought their books together and burned them up before everybody.—Acts 19:19.

These individuals were serious about resisting wicked spirits. Their books about magic cost a lot of money. But instead of giving those books away or selling them to others, they destroyed them. They were more concerned about pleasing Jehovah than about how much money the books were worth. How can we imitate the example of those first-century Christians? It would be wise to get rid of anything we may have that is connected with the occult. This includes amulets, charms, or other objects that people wear or own to try to protect themselves from wicked spirits. (1 Corinthians 10:21) Examine your entertainment carefully. Ask yourself, ‘Does any of my entertainment involve spiritism?’ Be determined to make choices that will help you stay far away from anything Jehovah hates. We want to do our best to “maintain a clear conscience” before our God.—Acts 24:16.

w19.04 22-23 paragraphs 10-12

Tuesday, August 3

Call the elders.—James 5:14.

The elders have a number of concerns when they receive a report of serious wrongdoing. They are primarily concerned with maintaining the sanctity of God's name. (Leviticus 22:31, 32; Matthew 6:9) They are also deeply concerned with the spiritual welfare of their brothers and sisters in the congregation and want to help any who have been victims of wrongdoing. In addition, if the wrongdoer is a part of the congregation, elders are concerned with trying to restore him if that is possible. (James 5:14, 15) A Christian who gives in to wrong desire and commits a serious sin is spiritually sick. This means that he no longer has a healthy relationship with Jehovah. In a sense, the elders are spiritual physicians. They endeavor to make "the sick one [in this instance, the wrongdoer] well." Their Scriptural counsel can help him to restore his relationship with God, but this is only possible if he is genuinely repentant.—Acts 3:19; 2 Corinthians 2:5-10. *w19.05* 10 paragraphs 10-11

Wednesday, August 4

God . . . energizes you, giving you both the desire and the power to act.—Philippians 2:13.

Jehovah can give us the desire to act. Perhaps we learn of a particular need inside or outside our congregation. In response, we might ask ourselves, ‘How can I help to fill this need?’ Or maybe we have been invited to accept a challenging assignment, but we wonder if we can do it justice. Or after reading a portion of God’s Word, we may wonder, ‘How can I apply this Bible passage to help others?’ When Jehovah sees that we are willing to examine ourselves, he can give us the desire to follow through and act. Jehovah can also give us the power to act. (Isaiah 40:29) He can enhance our natural abilities with his holy spirit. (Exodus 35:30-35) Through his organization, Jehovah may teach us how to perform certain tasks. If you are ever unsure about how to carry out an assignment, ask for help. Also, feel free to ask our generous heavenly Father for “power beyond what is normal.”—2 Corinthians 4:7; Luke 11:13. *w19.10* 21 paragraphs 3-4

Thursday, August 5

Men will be lovers of themselves.—2 Timothy 3:2.

The world has encouraged an inflated view of self. One reference work says that during the 1970's "self-help books proliferated." Some books "urged readers to know and accept themselves and to celebrate who they were." Consider, for example, the statement made in one such book: "Be in love with the most beautiful, exciting, worthy person ever—you." The book advocates a "religion of the self in which an individual determines his own behavior based upon his own conscience and the laws of his culture that work for him." Does that idea sound familiar to you? Satan encouraged Eve to do something similar. He said that she could "be like God, knowing good and bad." (Genesis 3:5) Today, many think so highly of themselves that in their opinion no one—not even God—can tell them what is right and what is wrong. For example, that attitude has become especially evident in the way people view marriage. w19.05 23 paragraphs 10-11

Friday, August 6

I am distressed and extremely downcast; I walk around sad all day long.—Psalm 38:6.

At times, King David was overwhelmed by stress. Think of the challenges he faced. He was weighed down with guilt for the many mistakes he had made. (Psalm 40:12) His beloved son Absalom rebelled against him, leading to Absalom's death. (2 Samuel 15:13, 14; 18:33) And one of David's closest friends betrayed him. (2 Samuel 16:23–17:2; Psalm 55:12-14) Many of the psalms David wrote convey his feelings of discouragement as well as his unshakable trust in Jehovah. (Psalm 38:5-10; 94:17-19) Later a psalmist began to envy the lifestyle of wicked people. He may have been a descendant of the Levite Asaph, and he served at "the grand sanctuary of God." This psalmist suffered emotional stress, causing him to become unhappy and discontented. He even started to doubt the blessings that come from serving God.—Psalm 73:2-5, 7, 12-14, 16, 17,21. w19.06 17 paragraphs 12-13

Saturday, August 7

We are not ignorant of [Satan's] designs.—2 Corinthians 2:11.

Satan appeals to natural desires. We have a natural desire to learn skills that can help us provide for ourselves and our families. (1 Timothy 5:8) Often, we can gain those skills by attending school and being diligent students. But we must be cautious. The educational system in many countries teaches students not only practical skills but also human philosophy. Students are encouraged to question the existence of God and to disregard the Bible. They are told that the theory of evolution is the only intelligent explanation for the origin of life. (Romans 1:21-23) Such teachings are opposed to “the wisdom of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:19-21; 3:18-20) Be determined never to be taken captive “by means of the philosophy and empty deception” of Satan’s world. (Colossians 2:8) Continually guard against Satan’s tactics. (1 Corinthians 3:18) Never allow him to blur your view of Jehovah. Live by Jehovah’s high moral standards. And do not let Satan trick you into ignoring Jehovah’s advice.
w19.06 5 paragraph 13; 7 paragraph 17

Sunday, August 8

[Teach] them to observe all the things I have commanded you.—Matthew 28:20.

Whatever subject you choose to discuss, think about the people who will hear you. Imagine how they will benefit from learning what the Bible really teaches. When talking with them, it is important that you listen to them and respect their viewpoint. That way you will understand them better, and they will be more likely to listen to you. Before a person decides to study the Bible, you may need to invest time and effort in making return visits. Why? Because people may not be available when we call on them again. Also, you may need to return several times before the householder feels comfortable enough with you to accept a Bible study.

Remember, a plant is more likely to grow when it is watered regularly. Similarly, an interested person's love for Jehovah and Christ is more likely to grow when we regularly discuss God's Word with that person. *w19.07* 14 paragraph 1; 15-16 paragraphs 7-8

Song 1 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“How the Law Demonstrated Jehovah’s Concern for Animals”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

De 23:19, 20—Why could interest be charged on a loan to a foreigner but not on a loan to a fellow Israelite? (*it-1* 600)

What spiritual gems from this week’s Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah, the field ministry, or something else?

Bible Reading: (4 min.) De 23:1-14 (5)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Reach the Heart”: (9 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Experience the Joy of Disciple-Making—Improve Your Skills—Reaching the Heart*.

Talk: (5 min.) g 4/15 13—Theme: Is It Wrong to Kill Animals? (14)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 62

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)
rr chap. 11 ¶18-26, box 11A



How the Law Demonstrated Jehovah’s Concern for Animals

An animal in distress was not to be ignored (De 22:4; *it-1* 375-376)

A mother bird was not to be treated cruelly (De 22:6, 7; *it-1* 621 ¶1)

Animals of different types were not to be yoked together (De 22:10; w03 10/15 32 ¶1-2)

The way we treat animals is important to Jehovah. We must not be cruel to animals or kill them just for sport. —Pr 12:10.



1

Jehovah's Attributes

(Revelation 4:11)

1. Jehovah our God, exalted in might,
Creator of life and Provider of light.
Creation speaks of your power so grand;
The heavens and earth forever stand.
2. Your heavenly throne, on justice it stands.
To us you make known all your righteous commands.
And as we turn to your Word, we can see
Your wisdom revealed so brilliantly.
3. The greatest of all is your perfect love.
Beyond all compare are your gifts from above.
Your attributes and your glorious name,
With joy and with zeal, we will proclaim.

DEUTERONOMY 22-23

22 “If you see your brother’s bull or his sheep going astray, do not deliberately ignore it. You should without fail lead it back to your brother. ² But if your brother does not live near you or you do not know him, you should bring the animal to your house, and it will remain with you until your brother searches for it. Then you should return it to him. ³ That is what you should do with his donkey, with his clothing, and with anything that your brother has lost and you have found. You must not ignore it.

⁴ “If you see your brother’s donkey or his bull fall down on the road, you must not deliberately ignore it. You should without fail help him raise the animal up.

⁵ “A woman must not put on the clothing of a man, nor should a man wear the clothing of a woman. For anyone doing so is detestable to Jehovah your God.

⁶ “If you happen upon a bird’s nest along the road with young ones or eggs, whether in a tree or on the ground, and the mother is sitting on the young ones or the eggs, you must not take the mother together with her young. ⁷ Be sure to send the mother away, but you may take the young for yourself. Do this so that it may go well with you and you may live long.

⁸ “If you build a new house, you must also make a parapet for your roof, so that you may not bring bloodguilt on your house because of someone falling from it.

⁹ “You must not sow your vineyard with two sorts of seed. Otherwise, everything produced from the seed you sow as well as the product of the vineyard will be forfeited to the sanctuary.

¹⁰ “You must not plow with a bull and a donkey together.

¹¹ “You must not wear clothing made of wool and linen mixed together.

¹² “You should make tassels on the four corners of the clothing you wear.

¹³ “If a man takes a wife and has relations with her but then comes to hate her ¹⁴ and he accuses her of misconduct and gives her a bad name by saying: ‘I have taken this woman, but when I had relations with her, I did not find evidence that she was a virgin,’ ¹⁵ the father and mother of the girl should produce the evidence of the girl’s virginity for the elders at the gate of the city. ¹⁶ The girl’s father must say to the elders, ‘I gave my daughter to this man as a wife, but he hates her ¹⁷ and is accusing her of misconduct by saying: “I have found out that your daughter does not have evidence of virginity.” Now this is the evidence of my daughter’s virginity.’ They will then spread out the cloth before the elders of the city. ¹⁸ The city elders will take the man and discipline him. ¹⁹ They will fine him 100 silver shekels and give them to the girl’s father, because the man defamed a virgin of Israel, and she will continue to be his wife. He will not be allowed to divorce her as long as he lives.

²⁰ “If, though, the accusation is true, and there is no evidence that the girl was a virgin, ²¹ they should bring the girl out to the entrance of her father’s house, and the men of her city should stone her to death, because she has committed a disgraceful act in Israel by committing sexual immorality in the house of her father. So you must remove what is bad from your midst.

²² “If a man is found lying down with a woman who is the wife of another man, both of them must die together, the man who lay down with the woman as well as the woman. So you must remove what is bad out of Israel.

²³ “If a virgin is engaged to a man, and another man happens to meet her in the city and lies down with her, ²⁴ you should bring them both out to the gate of that city and stone them to death, the girl because she did not scream in the city and the man because he humiliated the wife of his fellow man. So you must remove what is evil from your midst.

²⁵ “If, however, the man happened to meet the engaged girl in the field and the man overpowered her and lay down with her, the man who lay down with her is to die by himself, ²⁶ and you must do nothing to the girl. The girl has not committed a sin deserving of death. This case is the same as when a man attacks his fellow man and murders him. ²⁷ For he happened to meet her in the field, and the engaged girl screamed, but there was no one to rescue her.

²⁸ “If a man happens to meet a virgin girl who is not engaged and he seizes her and lies down with her and they are discovered, ²⁹ the man who lay down with her must give the girl’s father 50 silver shekels, and she will become his wife. Because he humiliated her, he will not be allowed to divorce her as long as he lives.

³⁰ “No man should take his father’s wife, so that he may not dishonor his father.

23 “No man who has been castrated by having his testicles crushed or who has had his male organ cut off may come into the congregation of Jehovah.

² “No illegitimate son may come into the congregation of Jehovah. Even to the tenth generation, none of his descendants may come into the congregation of Jehovah.

³ “No Am'mon-ite or Mo'ab-ite may come into the congregation of Jehovah. Even to the tenth generation, none of their descendants may ever come into the congregation of Jehovah, ⁴ because they did not come to your aid with food and water when you were on the way going out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Ba'laam the son of Be'or from Pe'thor of Mes-o-po-ta'mi-a to curse you. ⁵ But Jehovah your God refused to listen to Ba'laam. Rather, Jehovah your God changed the curse into a blessing for you, because Jehovah your God loved you. ⁶ You should never seek their welfare or their prosperity all your days.

⁷ “You must not hate an E'dom-ite, for he is your brother.

“You must not hate an Egyptian, for you became a foreign resident in his country. ⁸ The third generation of children born to them may enter the congregation of Jehovah.

⁹ “When you are encamped against your enemies, you should avoid anything bad. ¹⁰ If a man becomes unclean because of a nocturnal emission, he should go outside the camp and not reenter the camp. ¹¹ When evening falls, he should wash with water, and then he may return to the camp at sunset. ¹² A private place should be designated for use outside the camp, and there is where you should go. ¹³ A peg should be part of your equipment. When you squat outside, you should dig a hole with it and then cover your excrement. ¹⁴ For Jehovah your God is walking about within your camp to deliver you and to hand over your enemies to you, and your camp must be holy, so that he does not see anything indecent in you and turn away from accompanying you.

¹⁵ “You should not hand over a slave to his master when he escapes from his master and comes to you. ¹⁶ He may dwell among you in whatever place he chooses in one of your cities, wherever he likes. You must not mistreat him.

¹⁷ “None of the daughters of Israel may become a temple prostitute, neither may anyone of the sons of Israel become a temple prostitute. ¹⁸ You must not bring the price paid to a female prostitute or the price paid to a male prostitute into the house of Jehovah your God to fulfill a vow, for both of them are something detestable to Jehovah your God.

¹⁹ “You must not make your brother pay interest, whether interest on money, on food, or on anything on which interest may be charged. ²⁰ You may make a foreigner pay interest, but you must not make your brother pay interest, so that Jehovah your God may bless you in every undertaking of yours in the land you are going to take possession of.

²¹ “If you make a vow to Jehovah your God, do not be slow about paying it. For Jehovah your God will surely require it of you; otherwise, it will be a sin on your part. ²² But if you refrain from making a vow, you will not be guilty of sin. ²³ The word of your lips you should keep, and you must carry out what your own mouth vowed as a voluntary offering to Jehovah your God.

²⁴ “If you enter your neighbor’s vineyard, you may eat enough grapes to satisfy your appetite, but you should not put any in your container.

²⁵ “If you go into your neighbor’s field of standing grain, you may pluck the ripe ears with your hand, but you should not put a sickle to your neighbor’s grain.

Song 1 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“How the Law Demonstrated Jehovah’s Concern for Animals”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

De 23:19, 20—Why could interest be charged on a loan to a foreigner but not on a loan to a fellow Israelite? (*it-1* 600)

What spiritual gems from this week’s Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah, the field ministry, or something else?

Bible Reading: (4 min.) De 23:1-14 (5)

 APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Reach the Heart”: (9 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Experience the Joy of Disciple-Making—Improve Your Skills—Reaching the Heart*.

Talk: (5 min.) g 4/15 13—Theme: Is It Wrong to Kill Animals? (14)

 LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 62

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)
rr chap. 11 ¶18-26, box 11A



How the Law Demonstrated Jehovah’s Concern for Animals

An animal in distress was not to be ignored (De 22:4; *it-1* 375-376)

A mother bird was not to be treated cruelly (De 22:6, 7; *it-1* 621 ¶1)

Animals of different types were not to be yoked together (De 22:10; w03 10/15 32 ¶1-2)

The way we treat animals is important to Jehovah. We must not be cruel to animals or kill them just for sport. —Pr 12:10.



August 2-8 / Deuteronomy 22-23

Song 1 and Prayer

Opening Comments (1 minute)

Treasures From God's Word

"How the Law Demonstrated Jehovah's Concern for Animals": (10 minutes)

An animal in distress was not to be ignored

Deuteronomy 22:4: "If you see your brother's donkey or his bull fall down on the road, you must not deliberately ignore it. You should without fail help him raise the animal up.

***it-1* 375-376**

Animals were often used to carry loads in ancient times, and the Israelites were told that upon seeing the ass of someone lying down under its load, instead of leaving it, one was "without fail to get it loose." (Exodus 23:5) The amount of material an animal can carry is called a load, such as "the load of a pair of mules."—2 Kings 5:17.

A mother bird was not to be treated cruelly

Deuteronomy 22:6, 7: "If you happen upon a bird's nest along the road with young ones or eggs, whether in a tree or on the ground, and the mother is sitting on the young ones or the eggs, you must not take the mother together with her young. Be sure to send the mother away, but you may take the young for yourself. Do this so that it may go well with you and you may live long.

it-1 621 paragraph 1

Animals were also given loving consideration in the book of Deuteronomy. The Israelites were prohibited from taking a bird sitting on a nest, for it was the protective instinct for her offspring that made her vulnerable. She was allowed to escape, but the young could be claimed by the Israelites for themselves. The mother was thus free to raise more young. (Deuteronomy 22:6, 7) The farmer was not permitted to hitch an ass with a bull, to prevent hardship on the weaker animal. (22:10) The bull was not to be muzzled while threshing the grain so that he would not be tormented with hunger while grain was so close at hand and he was exerting his energy in work to thresh it.—25:4.

Animals of different types were not to be yoked together

Deuteronomy 22:10: “You must not plow with a bull and a donkey together.

w03 10/15 32 paragraphs 1-2

As you can see here, the camel and the bull that are plowing together look very uncomfortable. The yoke linking them together—intended for two animals of similar size and strength—makes both beasts suffer. Concerned about the welfare of such draft animals, God told the Israelites: “You must not plow with a bull and an ass together.”

(Deuteronomy 22:10) The same principle would apply to a bull and a camel.

Normally, a farmer would not impose such a hardship on his animals. But if he did not have two bulls, he might yoke together two animals he had available. Apparently, this is what the 19th-century farmer in the illustration decided to do. Because of the difference in their size and weight, the weaker animal would have to struggle to keep up the pace, and the stronger would have a greater burden to bear.

[Image:] A bull and a donkey yoked together. The yoke is

tilted because of the animals' differing heights.

The way we treat animals is important to Jehovah. We must not be cruel to animals or kill them just for sport.—Proverbs 12:10.

Spiritual Gems

Deuteronomy 23:19, 20—Why could interest be charged on a loan to a foreigner but not on a loan to a fellow Israelite?

Deuteronomy 23:19, 20: “You must not make your brother pay interest, whether interest on money, on food, or on anything on which interest may be charged. You may make a foreigner pay interest, but you must not make your brother pay interest, so that Jehovah your God may bless you in every undertaking of yours in the land you are going to take possession of.

***it-1* 600**

A debt refers to that which is owed, an obligation to pay or render something. In ancient Israel, debts were incurred primarily because of financial reverses. For an Israelite to

become a debtor was a misfortune; the borrower, in effect, became the lender's servant. (Proverbs 22:7) God's people were therefore commanded to be generous and unselfish in lending to needy fellow Israelites, not seeking to profit from their adversity by charging them interest. (Exodus 22:25; Deuteronomy 15:7, 8; Psalm 37:26; 112:5) But foreigners could be required to pay interest. (Deuteronomy 23:20) Jewish commentators understand this provision to apply to business loans, not to cases of need. Ordinarily foreigners were in Israel only temporarily, often as merchants, and could reasonably be expected to pay interest, especially since they would also be lending to others on interest.

What spiritual gems from this week's Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah, the field ministry, or something else?

Bible Reading: (4 minutes) Deuteronomy 23:1-14 (*th*
study 5)

Song 1 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES
FROM GOD'S WORD

“How the Law Demonstrated Jehovah’s Concern for Animals”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

De 23:19, 20—Why could interest be charged on a loan to a foreigner but not on a loan to a fellow Israelite? (*it-1* 600)

What spiritual gems from this week’s Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah, the field ministry, or something else?

Bible Reading: (4 min.) De 23:1-14 (5)

 APPLY YOURSELF
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Reach the Heart”: (9 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Experience the Joy of Disciple-Making—Improve Your Skills—Reaching the Heart*.

Talk: (5 min.) g 4/15 13—Theme: Is It Wrong to Kill Animals? (14)

 LIVING
AS CHRISTIANS

Song 62

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)
rr chap. 11 ¶18-26, box 11A



How the Law Demonstrated Jehovah’s Concern for Animals

An animal in distress was not to be ignored (De 22:4; *it-1* 375-376)

A mother bird was not to be treated cruelly (De 22:6, 7; *it-1* 621 ¶1)

Animals of different types were not to be yoked together (De 22:10; *w03* 10/15 32 ¶1-2)

The way we treat animals is important to Jehovah. We must not be cruel to animals or kill them just for sport. —Pr 12:10.





INCREASE YOUR JOY IN THE MINISTRY

Reach the Heart

Obedience to God comes from the heart. (Pr 3:1) Therefore, when teaching, we must strive to reach the heart of our listeners. How?

Do not just teach your student Bible truths, but help him to link them to his life and relationship with Jehovah. Help him to appreciate how Bible standards reflect God’s love, goodness, and

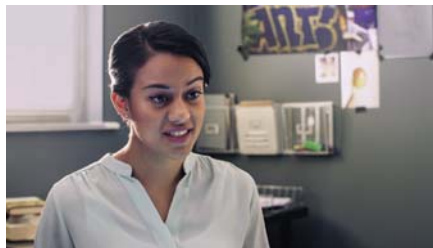
righteousness. Tactfully draw him out with questions to help him examine how he feels about what he is learning. Assist him to reason on the personal benefits of correcting a wrong viewpoint or practice. When you see your student’s heartfelt love for Jehovah, your joy will be increased.

WATCH THE VIDEO DRAMATIZATION EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF DISCIPLE-MAKING—IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS—REACHING THE HEART, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- Why did Neeta ask Jade: “Did you think any more about what we talked about on Monday?”



- How did Neeta help Jade to link Bible standards with Jehovah’s love for her?



- How did Neeta help Jade to reason on how she can express her love for God?



If we reach our student’s heart, he or she will be motivated to make progress

The New Song

(Psalm 98)

1. Sing to God a song, A song of praise that's bold and new.
Tell of all the great things He's done and yet will do.
Praise his mighty arm; He is the God of victory.
In the cause of justice,
He judges righteously.

(CHORUS)

Sing, sing, sing!

The new song, let it ring!

Sing, sing, sing!

Jehovah is our King.

2. Make a joyful shout, A joyful cry to God, our King!
Laud his name, give honor; A joyful anthem sing.
Join the mighty crowd, And sing aloud before the Lord.
Harp and horn and trumpet
Sound praise in full accord.

(Chorus)

3. Let the mighty sea And all that fills it give him praise.
Join with earth's creation, And joyful voices raise.
Let the land rejoice, And let the rivers clap their hands.
Mountains, hills, and valleys
Sing praise in all the lands.

(Chorus)

Song 1 and Prayer | Opening Comments (1 min.)

 TREASURES
FROM GOD'S WORD

“How the Law Demonstrated Jehovah’s Concern for Animals”: (10 min.)

Spiritual Gems: (10 min.)

De 23:19, 20—Why could interest be charged on a loan to a foreigner but not on a loan to a fellow Israelite? (*it-1* 600)

What spiritual gems from this week’s Bible reading would you like to share regarding Jehovah, the field ministry, or something else?

Bible Reading: (4 min.) De 23:1-14 (5)

 APPLY YOURSELF
TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

“Increase Your Joy in the Ministry—Reach the Heart”: (9 min.) Discussion. Play the video *Experience the Joy of Disciple-Making—Improve Your Skills—Reaching the Heart*.

Talk: (5 min.) g 4/15 13—Theme: Is It Wrong to Kill Animals? (14)

 LIVING
AS CHRISTIANS

Song 62

Local Needs: (15 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)
rr chap. 11 ¶18-26, box 11A



How the Law Demonstrated Jehovah’s Concern for Animals

An animal in distress was not to be ignored (De 22:4; *it-1* 375-376)

A mother bird was not to be treated cruelly (De 22:6, 7; *it-1* 621 ¶1)

Animals of different types were not to be yoked together (De 22:10; w03 10/15 32 ¶1-2)

The way we treat animals is important to Jehovah. We must not be cruel to animals or kill them just for sport. —Pr 12:10.



SOME EXEMPLARY WATCHMEN

These watchmen faced opposition, remained loyal, and announced both warnings and good news.

ANCIENT ISRAEL

Isaiah 778–c. 732 B.C.E.

Jeremiah 647-580 B.C.E.

Ezekiel 613–c. 591 B.C.E.

FIRST CENTURY

John the Baptist 29-32 C.E.

Jesus 29-33 C.E.

Paul c. 34–c. 65 C.E.

MODERN TIMES

C. T. Russell and His Associates c. 1879-1919

The Faithful Slave 1919–Today

tribal, economic, or language background! Jehovah taught the apostle Peter a lesson that resonates today: “God is not partial, but in every nation the man who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.”—Acts 10:34, 35.

¹¹ Another key lesson is that we need to keep a close eye on ourselves; past righteous works do not excuse current wrongdoing. We do well to remember that we have the same sinful tendencies as do those to whom we preach. The counsel that the apostle Paul gave to the Corinthian congregation applies equally to us: “Let the one who thinks he is standing beware that he does not fall. No temptation has come

Watchmen in the First Century

¹⁸ In the first century C.E., John the Baptist did the work of a watchman. He warned those of the fleshly house of Israel that they would soon be rejected. (Matt. 3:1, 2, 9-11) But he did more. Jesus said that John was the foretold “messenger” who had prepared the way for the Messiah. (Mal. 3:1; Matt. 11:7-10) Part of that work included announcing good news—“the Lamb of God,” Jesus, had arrived and would take away “the sin of the world.”—John 1:29, 30.

¹⁹ Of all the watchmen, Jesus was the foremost. Like Ezekiel, he was sent by Jehovah to “the house of Israel.” (Ezek. 3:17; Matt. 15:24) Jesus warned that the fleshly nation of Israel was soon to be rejected and that Jerusalem would be destroyed. (Matt. 23:37, 38; 24:1, 2; Luke 21:20-24) But his primary work was to announce good news.—Luke 4:17-21.

²⁰ While on earth, Jesus specifically told his disciples: “Keep on the watch.” (Matt. 24:42) They obeyed his command and acted as watchmen, warning that Jehovah had rejected the fleshly house of Israel and

18. What work did John the Baptist do?

19, 20. How did Jesus and his disciples act as watchmen?

the earthly city of Jerusalem. (Rom. 9:6-8; Gal. 4:25, 26) Like the watchmen who went before them, they also had good news to declare. Their message included the remarkable announcement that Gentiles would now be included in the spirit-anointed Israel of God and would enjoy the privilege of helping Christ restore pure worship on earth.—Acts 15:14; Gal. 6:15, 16; Rev. 5:9, 10.

²¹ Among first-century watchmen, the apostle Paul set an outstanding example. He took his responsibility seriously. Like Ezekiel, he knew that he would be bloodguilty if he failed to fulfill his assignment. (Acts 20:26, 27) Following the pattern of other watchmen, Paul not only warned others but also proclaimed good news. (Acts 15:35; Rom. 1:1-4) In fact, under the guidance of holy spirit, he quoted the prophecy recorded by Isaiah: “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news,” and he applied it to the work done by Christ’s followers as they preach about God’s Kingdom.—Isa. 52:7, 8; Rom. 10:13-15.

21. What example did Paul set?

²² After the death of the apostles, the foretold apostasy overwhelmed the Christian congregation. (Acts 20:29, 30; 2 Thess. 2:3-8) During a long growing period, weedlike counterfeit Christians outnumbered loyal wheatlike followers of Christ, and the clear message about God’s Kingdom was clouded over by false teachings. (Matt. 13:36-43) However, when the time approached for Jehovah to intervene in human affairs, he once again expressed his love and justice by appointing watchmen to sound a clear warning and to announce good news. Who proved to be such watchmen?

Jehovah Again Provides Watchmen to Warn the Wicked

²³ During the years leading up to 1914, Charles Taze Russell and his associates acted as the “messenger” who would “clear up a way” before the Messianic Kingdom was established.*^[2] (Mal. 3:1) That group also did the work of a watchman, using the magazine *Zion’s Watch Tower and Herald of Christ’s Presence* to

*^[2] For a discussion of this prophecy and its fulfillment, see the book *God’s Kingdom Rules!*, chapter 2, “The Kingdom Is Born in Heaven.”

22. What happened after the death of the apostles?

23. What role did C. T. Russell and his associates play?

help warn of God’s judgment and to spread the good news about God’s Kingdom.

²⁴ After the Kingdom was established, Jesus appointed a small group of men to serve as the faithful slave. (Matt. 24:45-47) Since then, the faithful slave, now known as the Governing Body, has done the work of a watchman. It takes the lead not only in warning of “the day of vengeance” but also in proclaiming “the year of Jehovah’s goodwill.”—Isa. 61:2; see also 2 Corinthians 6:1, 2.

²⁵ While the faithful slave takes the lead in the watchman work, Jesus assigned “all” of his followers to “keep on the watch.” (Mark 13:33-37) We obey that command by remaining spiritually awake, loyally supporting the modern-day watchman. We prove that we are awake by fulfilling our responsibility to preach. (2 Tim. 4:2) What motivates us? In part, it is our desire to save lives. (1 Tim. 4:16) Soon multitudes will lose their lives because they ignored the warning call

24. (a) How has the faithful slave acted as a watchman? (b) What have you learned from the example of past watchmen? (See the chart “Some Exemplary Watchmen.”)

25, 26. (a) What work must all of Christ’s followers do, and how is it done? (b) What will we consider in the next chapter?

of the modern-day watchman. (Ezek. 3:19) But our primary motive is that we long to share the best of news—pure worship has been restored! Right now, during “the year of Jehovah’s goodwill,” the door is open for many more to join us in worshipping our just and loving God, Jehovah. Soon all on earth who survive the end of this wicked system will benefit from the merciful rule of his Son, Christ Jesus. How could we hold back from assisting the modern-day watchman in telling such good news!—Matt. 24:14.

²⁶ Even before this wicked system ends, Jehovah has united his people in a miraculous way. The next chapter will discuss a prophecy involving two sticks that are used to illustrate how this has happened.

YOUR PLACE IN PURE WORSHIP

- 1** What motivates Jehovah to appoint watchmen?
- 2** What twofold message do the watchmen deliver?
- 3** What is your role in supporting pure worship?

Light in a Darkened World

(2 Corinthians 4:6)

1. In these days, dark and lawless days,
Shines a light we can see.
Like the dawn of another day
That will soon come to be.

(CHORUS)

*Shining through the darkness,
Ours is a message so bright.
It offers hope and light—
Sparkling like the daylight,
Bringing tomorrow in sight—
So ends the night.*

2. Those who sleep need awakening
As the time ebbs away.
We give hope and encouragement.
For their future we'll pray.

(Chorus)

JUNE 2021

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

LARGE PRINT EDITION



STUDY ARTICLES FOR:
AUGUST 2-29, 2021

Study Article 22: August 2-8	2
Help Your Bible Students to Become Baptized Disciples	

Study Article 23: August 9-15	15
With Jehovah, You Are Never Alone	

Study Article 24: August 16-22	27
You Can Escape From Satan's Snares!	

Study Article 25: August 23-29	40
Do Not Stumble "These Little Ones"	

LIFE STORY	51
Taking Steps With Jehovah in Mind	

QUESTIONS FROM READERS	62
------------------------	----

COVER PICTURE:

A brother, accompanied by his wife, conducts a Bible study with a young man who has a printed copy of the *Enjoy Life Forever!* book (See study article 22, paragraph 2)

This publication is not for sale. It is provided as part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations. To make a donation, please visit donate.jw.org.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*.

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) June 2021 is published by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; Harold L. Corkern, President; Mark L. Questell, Secretary-Treasurer; 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. © 2021 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. Printed in Canada.

Visit the [jw.org](https://www.jw.org) website,
or scan code



wip21.06-E
210301

72 *Making Known the Kingdom Truth* (Acts 20:20, 21)

1. There was a time we did not know
 The way a Christian ought to go.
 Then Jehovah sent the light,
 His Kingdom truth so clear and bright.
Our Father's will we then could see
 To serve the grand Theocracy,
 To declare Jehovah's fame,
 And help to glorify his holy name.
We witness now to all we meet,
 From door to door and on the street.
We take the time to help them see;
 We teach the truth that sets us free.
And as we strive in ev'ry land
 Jehovah's worship to expand,
May we serve our God as one
 Until Jehovah says the work is done.

Help Your Bible Students to Become Baptized Disciples

“Let each one of you be baptized.”—ACTS 2:38.

SONG 72

Making Known the Kingdom Truth

PREVIEW

This article will examine how Jesus helped people to become his disciples and how we can imitate him. We will also discuss some features of the new book *Enjoy Life Forever!* It is designed to help our Bible students to progress to baptism.

A LARGE crowd made up of men and women from many countries and speaking a number of languages had gathered. Something remarkable happened that day. A group of ordinary Jews could speak in the visitors' native languages! As surprising as that was, *what* those Jews were saying to them and what the apostle Peter said to all was more remarkable. It included the message that they could be saved by exercising faith in Jesus Christ. The crowd was deeply affected by that message. The people were so moved, in fact, that they asked: "What should we do?" In reply, Peter said: "Let each one of you be baptized."—Acts 2:37, 38.

² What happened next was exceptional. Some 3,000 individuals got baptized on that day, becoming disciples of Christ. This was the beginning of the great disciple-making work that Jesus commanded his followers to do. That work has extended to the 21st century. In our day, we cannot help someone to the point of baptism in just a few hours. It may take months or even a year or more for a student to reach that goal. Disciple-making takes work, as you well know if you are currently

-
1. What was a large crowd in the first century told to do?
 2. What will we examine in this article? (See cover picture.)

studying the Bible with someone. In this article, we will examine what you can do to help your Bible student become a baptized disciple.

HELP YOUR BIBLE STUDENT TO APPLY WHAT HE IS LEARNING

³ Before getting baptized, a Bible student must put into practice what the Bible teaches. (Read **Matthew 28:19, 20.**) When a student applies what he learns, he becomes like the “discreet man” in Jesus’ illustration who dug down deep to build his house on solid rock. (Matt. 7:24, 25; Luke 6:47, 48) How can we help a student to apply what he learns? Let us consider three suggestions.

⁴ *Help your student to set goals.* Why should you do that? Consider this illustration: If you were going to take a long road trip, you might include interesting stops along the way. Thus the distance to your destination would seem less overwhelming. Likewise, when a Bible student sets and reaches short-term goals, he will likely realize that the goal

3. As indicated at Matthew 28:19, 20, what must a student do to progress to baptism?

4. How can we help a student to work steadily toward baptism? (See also the box “Help Your Student to Set Goals and Reach Them.”)



Help Your Student to Set Goals and Reach Them

1. Discuss possible goals with your student
2. Help him with a plan to reach his goals
3. Regularly commend him for his progress

of baptism is within his reach. Use the “Goal” feature in the *Enjoy Life Forever!* book to help your student make progress. At the end of each lesson, discuss how the goal relates to what your student has just learned. If you have a different goal in mind for your student, write it in the space labeled

“Other.” Regularly use this portion of the study to review with your student both his short-term and his long-term goals.

⁵ *Help your student to make lifestyle changes.* (Read Mark 10:17-22.) Jesus knew that it would be difficult for a rich man to sell all his belongings. (Mark 10:23) Yet, Jesus told the man to make this big change in his lifestyle. Why? Because Jesus felt love for him. At times, we may hold back from encouraging a student to apply what he is learning because we feel that he is not ready to make a needed change. It may take time for people to strip off old habits and put on the new personality. (Col. 3:9, 10) But the sooner you openly discuss the issue, the sooner the student can begin to change. By having that discussion, you show that you care about him.—Ps. 141:5; Prov. 27:17.

⁶ A viewpoint question is one with which we ask a student for his opinion or thoughts on a subject. Use such a question to determine what your student understands and believes. If you do this regularly, you will find it easier to discuss sensitive

5. As recorded at Mark 10:17-22, what did Jesus tell a rich man to do, and why?

6. Why should we use viewpoint questions?

topics with him in the future. The *Enjoy Life Forever!* book contains many viewpoint questions. For example, lesson 04 asks: “How do you think Jehovah feels when you use his name?” Lesson 09 asks: “What are some things you would like to pray about?” At first, your student may need time to think about how to answer viewpoint questions. You can help by training him to reason on related scriptures as well as on the artwork.

⁷ Once your student understands what he needs to do, use real-life experiences to encourage him to do it. For example, if your student struggles to attend meetings, you could show him the video *Jehovah Cared for Me* featured in the “Explore” section of lesson 14. In many of the lessons in the *Enjoy Life Forever!* book, you will find such experiences in either the “Dig Deeper” or the “Explore” section.* Be careful not to compare your student with someone else by saying, “If he can do it, you can do it too.” Let the student come to that conclusion himself. Instead, isolate key points that helped the

* You can also find real-life experiences in (1) the *Research Guide for Jehovah’s Witnesses* under the subject “The Bible,” then “Practical Value,” and then “‘The Bible Changes Lives’ (Watchtower series)” or in (2) the *JW Library*[®] media section under “Interviews and Experiences.”

7. How can we use real-life experiences effectively?

person in the video to apply Bible teachings. Perhaps you can point out a key scripture or something practical that was done. Whenever possible, emphasize how Jehovah helped that person.

⁸ *Help your student come to love Jehovah.* How? Look for opportunities to draw attention to Jehovah's qualities. Help your student to view Jehovah as a happy God who supports those who love him. (1 Tim. 1:11; Heb. 11:6) Show the student that he will benefit by applying the information, and explain that this is a reflection of Jehovah's love for him. (Isa. 48:17, 18) Your student will be more motivated to make any needed changes as his love for Jehovah deepens.—1 John 5:3.

INTRODUCE YOUR STUDENT TO FELLOW WORSHIPPERS

⁹ To progress to baptism, a Bible student will need to make sacrifices. Like the rich man mentioned earlier, some students may need to sacrifice material things. If their employment is not in harmony with Bible principles, they may even have to

8. How can we help our student come to love Jehovah?

9. In line with Mark 10:29, 30, what can help a person to make sacrifices to become a baptized disciple?

make a change. Many may have to leave behind friends who do not love Jehovah. Others may be abandoned by family members who dislike Jehovah's Witnesses. Jesus acknowledged that it may be difficult for some people to make such sacrifices. But he promised that those who follow him will not be disappointed. They will be richly rewarded with a loving spiritual family. (Read Mark 10:29, 30.) How can you help your Bible student to benefit from this beautiful gift?

¹⁰ *Develop a friendship with your student.* It is important for you to show your student that you care about him. Why? Note a comment from Manuel, who lives in Mexico. Recalling when he was a Bible student, he says: "Before every study session, my teacher would ask me how I was doing. He helped me relax and allowed me to open up about other matters. I could feel that he really cared about me."

¹¹ Spend time with your students, as Jesus spent time with his followers. (John 3:22) If appropriate, invite your progressive Bible student to your home to enjoy a cup of coffee or a meal or to watch one

10. What do you learn from Manuel's experience?

11. How might our students benefit from spending time with us?

of our monthly broadcasts. Your student might especially appreciate such an invitation during holiday seasons when he may be feeling lonely. “I think I learned as much about Jehovah from spending time with my teacher as I did during our study,” says Kazibwe, who lives in Uganda. “I saw how much Jehovah cares for his people and how happy they are. That’s what I wanted in my life.”

¹² *Invite different publishers to the Bible study.* At times, we may feel that it is easier to go on our own or to bring the same publisher with us. While it may be more convenient to do so, our Bible student will likely benefit if, over time, we bring a variety of publishers. “Each publisher who came to my study would explain things in a unique way,” says Dmitrii, who lives in Moldova. “That helped me to look at the material from different angles. I was also less shy when I attended my first meeting, since I had already met many of the brothers and sisters.”

¹³ *Help your student to attend congregation meetings.* Why? Because Jehovah commands his worshippers to meet together; it is part of our worship.

12. Why should we bring different publishers to a Bible study?

13. Why must we help our student to attend meetings?



As you bring different publishers with you to a Bible study, the student will find it more appealing to attend meetings
(See paragraph 12)

(Heb. 10:24, 25) In addition, our brothers and sisters are our spiritual family. When we are at the meetings with them, it is as if we were together at home sharing a fine meal. When you help your Bible student to attend meetings, you help him to take one of the most important steps toward baptism. But it may be a difficult step for him to take. How can the publication *Enjoy Life Forever!* help your student to overcome any challenges he may face?

¹⁴ Use lesson 10 of the *Enjoy Life Forever!* book to help you motivate your student. Experienced publishers who were asked to test this lesson before

14. How can we motivate our student to attend meetings?

the book was released had great success in helping their students to attend the meetings. Of course, do not wait until lesson 10 to invite your Bible student to our meetings. Invite him as soon as possible and continue to do so regularly. Different Bible students face different obstacles. So pay attention to your student's needs, and see if you can offer practical help. Do not be discouraged if it takes some time before he attends. Be patient but persistent.

HELP YOUR BIBLE STUDENT TO OVERCOME HIS FEARS

¹⁵ Do you remember feeling a bit afraid of becoming one of Jehovah's Witnesses? Perhaps you felt that you would never be able to preach publicly. Or maybe you feared that your family or friends might oppose you. If so, you can sympathize with your Bible student. Jesus acknowledged that such fears are possible. However, he urged his followers not to let fear stop them from serving Jehovah. (Matt. 10:16, 17, 27, 28) How did Jesus help his followers to overcome their fears? And how can you follow his example?

15. What fears may our student have?

¹⁶ *Progressively train your student to share his faith.* Jesus' disciples may have felt nervous when he sent them out to preach. But Jesus helped them by telling them where to preach and what their message was to be. (Matt. 10:5-7) How can you imitate Jesus? Help your student to see where he can preach. For example, ask him if he knows someone who could benefit from learning a specific Bible truth. Then help him to prepare what to say by showing him a simple way to share that truth. When appropriate, you can use as a practice session the features "Some People Say" and "Someone May Ask," found in the *Enjoy Life Forever!* book. When you do, focus on training your student to use the Bible to give simple and tactful answers.

¹⁷ *Help your student to trust in Jehovah.* Jesus assured his disciples that Jehovah would help them because He loved them. (Read Matthew 10:19, 20, 29-31.) Remind your student that Jehovah will help him too. You can help him to rely on Jehovah by praying with him about his goals. "My teacher often mentioned my goals in his prayers," says

16. How can we train our student to share his faith?

17. How can we use Matthew 10:19, 20, 29-31 as we help our student to trust in Jehovah?

Franciszek, who lives in Poland. “When I saw how Jehovah answered my teacher’s prayers, I quickly started to pray. I felt Jehovah’s help when I needed to have days off from my new job to attend the meetings and the convention.”

¹⁸ Jehovah cares deeply about our Bible students. He appreciates how hard Christian teachers work to help people draw closer to him, and he loves them for it. (Isa. 52:7) If you are not currently conducting a Bible study, you can still help Bible students to progress toward baptism by accompanying other publishers on their studies.

18. How does Jehovah feel about the work that Christian teachers do?

PICTURE DESCRIPTION Page 11: A brother, accompanied by his wife, studies with a young man. At other times, various brothers sit in on the study.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR BIBLE STUDENT TO . . .

- apply what he is learning?
- get to know fellow worshippers?
- overcome his fears?

1. In this year of goodwill
by our God, all need to hear
That the day of his anger
will come, and it is near.

(CHORUS)

*It means their life, but not just theirs;
It means our own life as well.
It means their life if they obey,
So all the nations we must tell;
We must tell.*

2. There's a message to preach,
so we spread it all abroad.
We invite all to come and
be reconciled to God.

*(Chorus)**(BRIDGE)*

It's urgent, it's important,
That people listen, learn, and live.
We tell them, and we teach them;
Life-giving truth we freely give.

(Chorus)